

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02657 260325Z
ACTION EUR-03

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-----260332 055606 /70

P 251625Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4561

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2657

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RECEIVED YOUR MEMO ON TRIP ARRANGEMENTS.DO YOU HAVE
ANY FEEL FOR WHETHER AMBASSADOR WILL BE CALLED FOR CON-
SULTATIONS, AND IF SO WHEN?

2. APPRECIATE SOMEONE CALLING ST PAUL'S SCHOOL,
CONCORD, N. H. (603-225-3341) TODAY AND LEAVING FOLLOWING
MESSAGE FOR DAVID MATLOCK (BREWSTER HOUSE):
"WE ARE ARRANGING FOR PAN AM TO ISSUE TICKETS FOR YOU TO
COME TO MOSCOW FOR SPIRNG BREAK. PAN AM BOSTON WILL CON-
TACT YOU. WE ARE BOOKING DEPARTURE MARCH 9 AND RETURN
TO BOSTON MARCH 31."

3. GEORGE COSTAKIS VISITED US FEB 25 TO EXPRESS HIS CON-
CERN OVER THE EXTENDED DELAY IN HIS CASE. OVIR WILL NOT
ISSUE THE EXIT VISAS WITHOUT A LETTER FROM US STATING
THAT WE WILL ACCEPT COSTAKIS AND HIS FAMILY AS EMIGRANTS.
WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, GIVE HIM THE LETTER AS LONG AS
HIS NAME CHECK PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED. HE TOLD US
THAT HE IS PARTICULARLY IMPATIENT BECAUSE OF A NEW LAW
WHICH HE SAYS WILL GO INTO EFFECT MARCH 1. IT DEALS
WITH HANDLING OF PAINTINGS ANDOTHER ART WORKS, AND
HE IS AFRAID IT WILL UNDERMINE HIS AGREEMENT WIHT
MINISTRY OF CULTURE CONCERNING HIS RIGHT TO TAKE OUT
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A NUMBER OF WORKS.

4. COSTAKIS IS THINKING OF GOING PUBLIC BY TELLING
WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS ABOUT HIS EMIGRATION PLANS AND
THE DELAY HE HAS EXPERIENCED FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE.
HE PLANS TO WRITE SENATOR KENNEDY, CONGRESSMAN
BRANDEMAS AND OTHERS WHO HE HAS RECEIVED WHEN THEY

VISITED MOSCOW.

5. WE HAVE TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM THAT A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN MIGHT NOT BE IN HIS INTEREST AT THIS TIME. WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE ON PROGRESS IN NAME CHECK.

6. REGARDING VOA, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL GO SLOW ON A DECISION TO REINSTATE JAMMING, PARTICULARLY IN ADVANCE OF BELGRADE. THE CURRENT PRESS CAMPAIGN IS, HOWEVER, OMINOUS. WE WOULD AGREE THAT FEEDBACK AFFECT ON SOVIET LISTENERS IS PRIMARY CONCERN, BUT IF SOVIET ANALYSIS CONCLUDE THAT VOA'S APPROACH HAS CHANGED TO ACTIVE PROMOTION OF DISSIDENT ISSUES A LA RL, THIS COULD BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DECISION. THEREFORE, IF VOA OVERPLAYS ITS HAND IN THIS TENSE SITUATION, THEY MAY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE LOSS OF ONE OF OUR MOST EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS, AN UNJAMMED RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE RADIO SERVICE. FOR THIS REASON (AND THE OTHERS SPELLED OUT IN OUR CABLE ON BUKOVSKY INTERVIEW), WE CONSIDER IT MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER FOR VOA TO ADHERE CLOSELY TO GUIDELINES.

7. RE CIVIL AVIATION, REALIZE IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO PULL TOGETHER COMPLETE REPORT, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMAL FILL-IN ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. WILL WE ALLOW TWO WEEKLY FREQUENCIES TO CONTINUE IN THE ABSENCE OF CHARTERS? ALSO, IN MARITIME AREA, WHERE DOES DECISION ON PORT ACCESS STAND?

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8. RE PARA 3, MOSCOW 2507, HAS MEMO MENTIONED GONE FORWARD? UNLESS IT IS ALREADY MOTT WE SHOULD LIKE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SPELL OUT OUR UNIT-PRICE IDEAS, SINCE WE HONESTLY THINK THEY OFFER SOMETHING MORE TANGIBLE TO FBO THAN STAND-PART POSITION AND CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THEY SHOULD BE OPPOSED. ALSO, WE SEE NO OTHER WAY OF MOVING THIS MATTER OFF DEAD CENTER.

9. FURTHER ON VOA, RAY BENSON HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS: VOA BROADCASTS IN GENERAL, ENGLISH AS WELL AS RUSSIAN SERVICE, HAVE DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS STORIES FULLY IN PAST WEEKS, USING INTERVIEWS, STATEMENTS, PRESS RELEASES, LETTERS. MOST PROGRAMS ARE FULLY SOURCED ACCORDING TO ACCEPTED GUIDELINES, WITH RELIANCE ON BROAD RANGE OF US PRESS PLAY, BUT WE NOTE SELF-ORIGINATED MATERIAL GAINING HEAVIER ROLE THAN IN PAST MONTHS AND YEARS. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS STORIES FREQUENTLY GIVES RINGING TONE TO PROGRAMS, THOUGH VOA ALSO CITES PRESS COMMENTARIES CRITICAL OF RECENT

USG EMPHASIS, ASKING WHAT NEXT. RECENT US PRESS
PLAY ENCOURAGING EQUAL USG ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS
OUTSIDE EE AND IN USA ALSO GIVEN PLAY AND CAN EFFEC-
TIVELY BALANCE HEAVIER STRESS ON EE-ASSOCIATED STORIES.
MORE HON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS IN USA WOULD
HELP COUNTER CURRENT SOVIET MEDIA PLAY OF US
"VULNERABILITY" ON THESE ISSUES. WE SEE TOW BASIC
CRITERIA WHICH SHOULD CONTINUE TO GUIDE RUSSIAN SER-
VICE: (1) MATERIALS MUST BE SOURCED ACCORDING ACCEPTED
GUIDELINES; THIS SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY EASY THESE DAYS--
NO NEED TO CITE AMALRIK IN FRANCE OR BUKOVSKY IN
ENGLAND OR TURN SAFIR LOOSE TO ROUND UP "HOW WELL
EMIGRES FROM USSR NOW DOING IN WEST";
(2) EVEN PROPERLY SOURCED MATERIALS MUST BE USED IN
BALANCED FASHION; THIS BEING ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN USG
STATEMENTS ARE CITED. HOPKINS STORY, AS CITED, MAY
HAVE ERRED; BUT IT IS NOT EMBASSY'S CONCLUSION THAT
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VOA RUSSIAN SERVICE IS BECOMING CLUMSY OR CRUDE, MERELY
THAT PLETHORA OF MATERIAL ON SUBJECTS CLOSE TO HEARTS
RUSSIAN SERVICE STAFFERS IF OFFERING NEW CHALLENGE,
MAKING IT DIFFICULT ACHIEVE NEW BALANCE AND MAINTAIN
PROFILE PROPER FOR USG STATION. RAY BENSON ASKS YOU
SHARE ABOVE WITH JOCK, PHIL AND ELI, ALL OF WHOM AWARE
HIS VIEWS THAT RUSSIAN SERVICE SHOULD KEEP CLOSE WATCH
ON SELF, TO AVOID JEOPARDIZING CLEAR ACCESSIBILITY
MILLIONS OF SOVIETS VIA ITS MANY CHANNELS.
TOON

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